

**New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services  
School Strep Disease Control Program**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION  
IN PROFICIENCY TESTING SURVEYS**

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Service (CLIS) has two methods of participation in the School Strep Disease Control Program in order to comply with N.J.S.A. 45:9-42-26 et seq.

- A. The first is applicable to those that perform the Culture (Blood Agar Plate/Bacitracin Disc) method for the isolation and identification of Group A streptococci and includes the following requirements:
1. Established Quality Control Program which includes the following:
    - a. daily temperature checks of incubators and refrigerators;
    - b. use of a reference laboratory, licensed to perform bacteriology, to perform the quality control of each new lot of blood agar plates and Bacitracin discs and to check all positive or questionable plates along with 10% of the negative.
  2. All contaminated material (culture plates, swabs, etc.) must be autoclaved or incinerated prior to final disposal. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in denial or revocation of licensure in the School Strep Program.
- B. The second is applicable to those performing the Direct Antigen Test (DAT) for the detection of Group A streptococci:
1. School nurses must be trained by the DAT kit manufacturer.
  2. Quality control must be performed, as specified by the DAT kit manufacturer, and records maintained on the premises.

Each survey participant will receive three proficiency surveys each school year, to be mailed in the months of February, May and October. Please have a current test kit available for these surveys. Failure to participate in either survey will result in an unsatisfactory rating and a grade of zero. If you do not receive your test samples in the scheduled months, it is your responsibility to notify this office at (609) 292-5605.

The following is applicable to all program participants:

1. The school physician must be designated as the responsible individual.
2. Facilities are subject to an unannounced on-site inspection to assure compliance with state and federal regulations.
3. If your method of program participation changes, i.e., Bacitracin to DAT or vice versa, immediately notify this office in writing in order to keep our records current.
4. Participation in proficiency testing surveys is required for both methods. Failure to participate in the proficiency testing evaluation program will result in the initiation of action that will lead to suspension or revocation of your state and federal licenses and could result in the imposition of fiscal penalties of up to \$1000.00 per violation.